



## **Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists**

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Donna M Sanchez, MS, CRNA, APRN  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
1224 Mill St. BLDG B. Suite 223  
East Berlin, CT. 06023

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Donna M Sanchez, I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and a Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). I am Chair of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists. We have been informed of certain proposals within the Governors Budget that has very serious consequences for all of Connecticut's Licensed Professionals. The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists is very concerned about the ramifications of such a proposal. Each year the small amount of money that is derived from our ever increasing professional licensing fees goes to fund HAVEN. Our understanding is that the proposal takes that money from HAVEN places it into the general fund. HAVEN is the only state authorized program for intervention assistance for licensed professionals suffering from chemical dependency, emotional or behavioral disorders, or physical or mental illnesses.

Healthcare providers spend their whole careers caring for the needs of Connecticut's residents many times at the expense of their own wellbeing. Our state government would be negligent in removing that financial assistance needed to fund such a worthy program. If we can't get the help we need in our time of crisis, who in turn will care of the residents of Connecticut who are the recipients of our care, our assistance to live a full life and met their healthcare needs.

The ability to get counseling, monitoring and assistance for various illnesses, chemical or alcohol dependency or behavioral, and mental health illnesses is invaluable to all of Connecticut's residents. With the increase in drug and alcohol dependency, the increase in mental health related societal tragedies, the very last thing any government should be considering is removing financial support for well proven programs that work. The increase in the amount of residents seeking healthcare requires a skilled healthcare work force. Our healthcare professionals who are inflicted with such illnesses need to get healthy both physically and psychologically to return to the workforce and do what they do best, care for others.

There may be some who can argue that state revenue should not be used to fund such an endeavor but our healthcare providers whether they are physicians, dentists, nurses, APRNs, CRNAs, PAs or other healthcare providers would argue differently. Each of us have invested many hours, money and time to get our education and to maintain our licenses and all so we can serve the public. We deserve the opportunity that HAVEN's guidance and resources allows us to regain our humanity, our profession when these illnesses takes that from us.

The CGS 19a-12a and 12b has outlined very effectively how this program is regulated with our laws. This language not only supports our ill professionals but protects all of Connecticut's residents. The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists would implore the committee members to reconsider such a erroneous proposal. We urge you to continue to support the underfunded HAVEN program, give all of Connecticut's residents a chance to be healthy both in mind and body, we deserve nothing less.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concern over this proposal.

Donna M Sanchez, MS, CRNA, APRN